



THE

# KNIGHT



VOLUME 32, No. 2. Issue #168.

The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR.

November-December 2009.

## ANOTHER MILLENIUM COMMEMORATIVE - PLEASE!

Aleksandras Radžius

Except for the privately issued medal of Petras Repšys, there is a deafening numismatic silence with respect to commemorating the millenium of the baptism of King Netimeras.

Why?

Our millenium commemorative coins are a permanent record, maybe even till the next millenium, as to how Lithuanians viewed and celebrated their first millenium. No doubt, voices will be raised in the future, as they are raised now, as to why Lithuanians in leadership positions chose to underplay their nation's millenium by celebrating only half of it!

Though fully appreciating that no outcome is a consequence of only one factor, in this case, I believe, there is one factor whose loading is such, that all other factors become insignificant. That factor, I believe, is that Lithuanians in leadership positions tends to ignore inconvenient facts so as to avoiding criticism for not reacting properly when faced with these facts and/or for fear of offending perceived higher political powers if these facts were acknowledged. The perceived polical powers, in this case, being the Papalcy, the Germans and the Poles. If the baptism of King Netimeras is acknowledged as the starting point of Catholism in Lithuania, it would force a reassessment of papal support to German militarism in the East Baltic in the 12 and 13 hundreds, it would force an acknowledgement of period baptisms





rebaptisms for political reasons, and it would force a reassessment of events related to King Jogalia's/Jogaila's assumption of the Polish throne. Nonetheless, not only do the Lithuanian people deserve a commemorative coin dedicated to King Netimeras and his baptism, but historical reality demands it!

We should take this one step further and begin researching the Vatican archives for records from about 900 to about 1450. We might find information not currently available on the early spread of Catholicism in Lithuania, in spite of German militarism. Further, we may be able to determine how and when the Papalcy stopped treating Lithuania as a member of its flock and began supporting German militarism. This additional information might be the basis for commemoratives celebrating the early trail of Catholicism in Lithuania.

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Domininkas Kaubrys, an eminent award recognized Lithuanian numismatist, celebrates our Millenium in his yard with a living floral arrangement shaped like a giant coin displaying a 'Vytis' in the center and '1009' at the bottom.



## COINS FOR BRUNO'S TRAVELS

Bruno of Querfurt, a German from Saxony, was of noble birth. Though he had difficulties with individuals in positions of authority over him, he did enjoy his family's support and goodwill. We can infer that he was financially comfortable even though he chose to live like a monk.

Since no travel is possible without finances, we might infer that at least some of the coinage which went with Bruno and his retinue on his travels to the east would have been the contemporary coinage circulating in Saxony. Assuming that circulating coins which are handled daily can survive at least 50 to 100 years before wear and clipping renders them culls, and assuming that German kings, unlike some English kings, did not periodically recall their coinage to be exchanged for newly struck coins with different designs (and retaining a percentage of the recalled coins as a tax), we might infer that coinage struck to about 100 years prior to Bruno's death would have been coins that Bruno could have used.

Below are a few examples of German coins from that time. Admittedly, these are examples of well struck coins, and may not be typical of the ones in general circulation. Nonetheless, it is possible that coins such as these passed through the hands of King Netimeras, Lord Zebedenas and other Lithuanians as a consequence of Bruno's presences in Lithuania.



HEINRICH I (919-936) 1.43 grams (about 22 grains)  
About 18 mm. diameter, probably clipped. Verdum Mint.  
Obv. REX, legend: illegible. Rev. Greek Cross with a single pellet  
in 1st quadrant, legend: illegible.



OTTO I (936-973) 1.10 grams (about 17 grains)  
About 19 mm. diameter, probably clipped. Strassburg Mint.  
Obv. Side portrait of King, legend: illegible. Rev. Building with lily  
on roof, legend: illegible.



OTTO I (936-973) 1.44 grams (about 22 grains)  
About 18 mm. diameter, probably clipped. Strassburg Mint.  
Obv. Side portrait of King, legend: illegible. Rev. Building with lily  
on roof, legend: illegible.





OTTO II (973-983) 1.31 grams (about 20 grains)

About 21 mm. diameter. Koln Mint.

Obv. Greek Cross with a single pellet in each quadrant, legend: +ODDO+IMP-AUG. Rev. S / COLONIII / A.



Anonymous (after 970) 1.50 grams (about 23 grains)

About 21 mm. diameter. Magdeburg Mint.

Obv. Carolinian temple, legend: illegible. Rev. Greek Cross with a single pellets in each quadrant, legend: illegible.



OTTO III (983-1002) and Adelheid (991-994)

1.10 grams (about 17 grains)

About 20 mm. diameter. Goslar Mint.

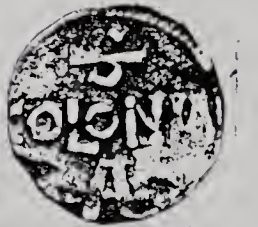
Obv. Greek Cross with D in 1st and 2nd quadrant and O in 3rd and 4th quadrant, legend: +DIUR+REX. Rev. Temple with pellet in center, legend: +ATEA\_HLHT



1.55 grams (about 24 grains)

About 18 mm. diameter. Goslar Mint.

Obv. Greek Cross with D in 1st and 2nd quadrant and O in 3rd and 4th quadrant, legend: +DIURA+REX. Rev. Temple with pellet in center, legend: +ATEA\_HLHT



OTTO III (983-1002) 1.62 grams (about 25 grains)

About 18 mm. diameter. Koln Mint.

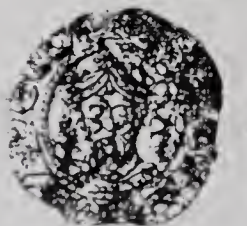
Obv. Greek Cross with a single pellet in each quadrant, legend: +OTTO REX. Rev. S / COLONIA / A.



OTTO III (983-1002) 1.25 grams (about 19 grains)

About 18 mm. diameter. Dortmund Mint.

Obv. Greek Cross with a single pellet in each quadrant, legend: +ODDO+REX. Rev. THERT / + / MANNI.



OTTO III (983-1002) 1.21 grams (about 19 grains)

About 18 mm. diameter, possibly clipped. Remagen Mint.

Obv. Frontal portrait of King, legend: RIGEMAGO. Rev. A / COLO / +AG



HEINRICH II (1002-1024) 1.35 grams (about 21 grains)

About 20 mm. diameter. Augsburg Mint

Obv. Right profile of King, legend: HE / IN / RI - R / EX. Rev. Greek Cross with a single pellet in 1st and 4th quadrants and three pellets in 2nd and 3rd quadrants. legend: AVGVSTA CIV.





HEINRICH II (1002-1024) 1.40 grams (about 22 grains)  
About 19 mm. diameter, partially weak strike. Mayence Mint.  
Obv. Frontal bust of King holding scepter with right hand,  
legend: illegible. Rev. Building, legend: illegible.



HEINRICH II (1002-1024) 1.49 grams (about 23 grains)  
About 20 mm. diameter. Regensburg Mint.  
Obv. Right profile of King, legend: IR / X - E / NI / RI / C. Rev.  
Greek Cross with a single pellet in 1st and 4th quadrants and three  
pellets in 2nd and 3rd quadrants, legend: +OSIDVDSITR



HEINRICH II (1002-1024) 1.37 grams (about 21 grains)  
About 20 mm. diameter. Salzburg Mint.  
Obv. Right profile of King, legend: H / RI / K / II - S + S. Rev. Greek  
Cross with three pellets in 1st and 4th quadrants and a single  
pellet in 2nd and 3rd quadrants, legend: HCIISDIISVD.

Clearly, these coins were intended to be pennyweight coins, i.e., on average about 24 grains in weight (about 1.6 grams). For a few hundred years prior to Bruno's lifetime and a few hundred years afterwards, silver pennyweight coins were the predominant coins in circulation in Europe. The oldest surviving Lithuanian coins, the PECHAT / Greek Cross and dagger coins attributed to King Algirdas (1345-1377), were pennyweight and half-pennyweight coins. Lithuanian coins following King Algirdas's reign, for a while, were generally a quarter of a pennyweight, i.e., farthings, in the English language.

## ANOTHER LITHUANIAN ANNIVERSARY

July 15, 2010 will mark the 600 year anniversary of the Battle of Žalgiris. The battle is also known as the Battle of Gruenwald or the Battle of Tannenberg. This was the preeminent battle of medieval Eastern Europe. The richest and the strongest military power at the time, the Teutonic Order, was soundly defeated. This battle was the first step in removing the Teutonic Order as a military treat in the East Baltic. The second step was the discreditation of the Teutonic Order at the Council of Constance 1414-1417 and transference of the Charter to spread Catholicism in the east from the Teutonic Order to Lithuania. The final step was the Treaty of Melno in 1420 by which the eastern

border of German occupied Prussia was set, not to be crossed for almost 500 years by German soldiers, i.e., until WWI.

Prior to the battle, the Lithuanian, Polish and Allied armies were camped near the town of Gruenwald in German occupied Prussia. The name Gruenwald comes from joining the German words GRUEN (green) and WALD (forest). The Lithuanians name Žalgiris is a Lithuanian version of Gruenwald - ŽALIA (green) and GIRIA (forest). The German name for the battle, Tannenberg, comes from the town near which the Germans set up their camp. This name comes from the joining to the German words TANNEN (fir, adjective form) and BERG (hill).

The Bank of Lithuania will be issuing three coins to commemorate the Battle of Žalgiris during the second quarter of 2010.

One will be 99.9% gold with a nominal face value of 500 litų and 5,000 will be minted. They will weigh 31.10 grams and will have a diameter of 33.00 mm. They will have a mirror finish and a proof like matte relief.



Another will be of 92.5% silver with a 50 litų nominal value and 10,000 will be minted. They will weigh 28.28 grams with a diameter of 38.61 mm, with a mirror finish and a proof like matte relief.



The third will be a circulating cupro/nickel coin with a nominal value of 1 litas and 1 million will be minted. They will weigh 6.25 grams with a diameter of 22.30 mm.



The private enterprise firm 'Monetų Namai' (Home of Coins) has already begun taking orders for their medal commemorating the Battle of Žalgiris.

The medal is brass plated with 24 carat gold. 20,000 have been minted. They weigh 20 grams and have a diameter of 38.60 mm, with a mirror finish and a proof like matte relief.





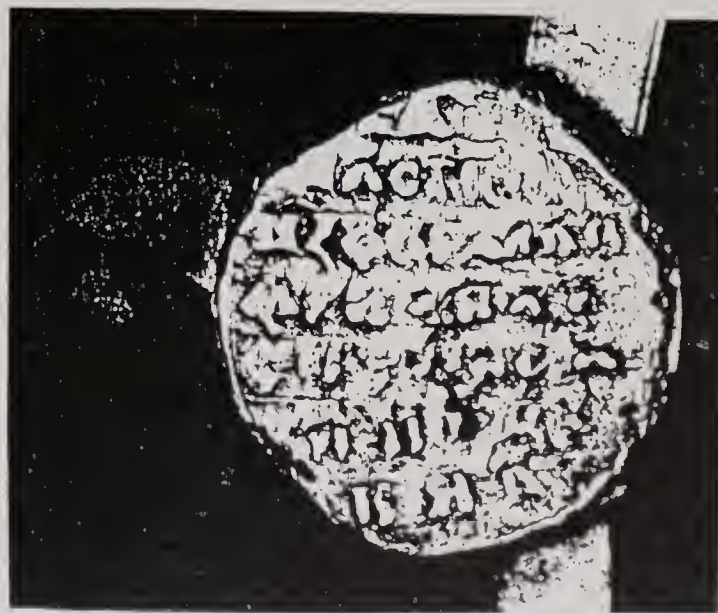
Unfortunately, this firm does not ship to addresses outside of Lithuania. For those interested in this medal, may we suggest contacting Marius Urbalis in Lithuania as an in-country purchaser. His ad can be found on page 10.

In view of the difficulties and frustrations experienced by our membership in obtaining commemorative coins directly from the Bank of Lithuania, in the March-April issue we presented a listing of dealers who are alternative outlets for Lithuanian commemoratives. They may be good sources for the above Žalgisis coins and medal.

## SEALS OF KING JOGALIA

Aleksandras Radžius

The earliest surviving seal of King Jogalia (1377-1434) is currently housed in the Secret Archive of the Teutonic Order in Berlin. It is attached to a document dated September 29, 1379 stating that there will be a ten year truce between Lithuania and the Teutonic Order and that German merchants have safe passage on Lithuanian road and for a distance of 'a lance throw' from the road. There are no commitments on the part of the Teutonic Order. Besides the seal of King Jogalia, at the bottom of the document are also the seals of Lords Lengvenis, Kęstutis, and Vytautas. To date there are no other examples of this seal of King Jogalia known. The seal is about 1 1/4 inches (about 32 mm) in diameter and is of red wax. In the middle ages, red wax was reserved for royalty.



This may be the only known seal of a Lithuanian sovereign or noble that is double sided. Unfortunately, the seal is very worn, but in curious way. Unlike other seal which have edges borken of or have parts of the legend scratched out, the wear on this seal suggests that it was handled repeatedly and that the warmth from the fingers softened the wax to the point where details were smoothed out and obliterated. The other three seals on the document do not show this wear to the same extent. One might infer that many people wanted to ascertain for themselves the contents of the document and reassure themselves that indeed the king's seal was on the document.

The obverse is a non-armorial equestrian figure facing heraldic right with the rider's uplifted right hand wielding a sword. A ring around the rider suggests that a legend around the outer edge of the seal may have been present - a feature typical of western European seals of the time. On the reverse are seven rows of Cyrillic letters. Texts in rows are a feature often found on Byzantine and Eastern Slavic coins and seals. However, the wear on the seal is such that no legend on the observe can be made out and a only a few Cyrillic letter on the reverse can be presumed.

The reverse appears to consist of 47 Cyrillic letters, of which about 10 might be presumed. One would expect this text to contain, transposed into Latin letters, the words: PECHAT VELIKII KNIAZIA IAGAL (Seal of the Great Lord Jogalia). In Cyrillic, this would require about 20 characters - leaving about 27 other characters unaccounted for.

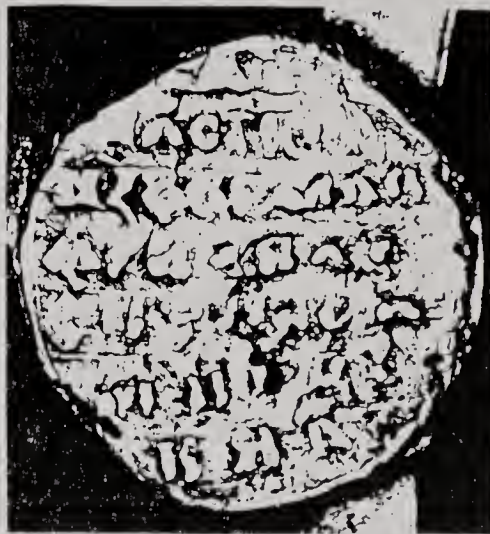
It is most unfortunate that the seal is in such bad shape. If we could read the legend on the obverse and the text of the reverse, we could determine if the seal was one that Jogalia used prior to assending to the Lithuanian throne or one made afterwards. It was only two years after his father's, King Algirdas's, death that this treaty was ratified with King Jogalia's seal and the seals of Lords Lengvenis, Kęstutis and Vytautas. Further, from the legends on the seal, we might have another example of how Jogalia's name was spelled at the time and what title he used. Surviving period documents record his name as JOGAILO and JUKGAILO in Church Slavic language texts; as JAGAL, JAGALO, JAGEL, JAGIL in German texts; and as JAGIELO, JAGELLO, and JAGIELLO in Polish texts. Also known are variations JEGELNO, JAGYELNO, and



KEHILLO. It must be emphasized that regardless how well we document the letters medieval scribes used to record this name, in the final analysis it is we Lithuanians who must decide the spelling that makes the most sense to us. Lithuanian researches in the past had suggested rendering it in Lithuanian as JAGIELA, JAUGALIUS, JOGALIS, JOGĖLA, JOGĖLIS, and JOGILAS. It appears that Simas Daukantas in 1822 was the first Lithuanian historian to use the variant JOGAILA.

The problem with the rendering JOGAILA is that it breaks down into JO (of him, his, for him) and GAILA (sorrow, to be sorry), thus the compound name translates to ONE SHOULD BE SORRY FOR HIM. If instead his name is rendered as JOGALIA, the second word GALIA (power), translates the name to THE POWER IS HIS. Realistically, what name would Algirdas most likely have given his designated successor? Would it have been ONE SHOULD BE SORRY FOR HIM or THE POWER IS HIS?

Not only would being able to read the reverse of the seal present another example of how his name was spelled, but the text might indicate if Jogalia might have used the seal while his father, King Algirdas was still alive. Here are the few Cyrillic letters that I could make out and presume. If another seal in better condition surfaces, we may find that the legend begins on the obverse and continues on the reverse, or that the legend on the obverse is the same as the beginning portion of the text on the reverse but is followed by additional text.



?А??  
 ?ЛСТ???  
 N?????  
 М?????  
 ??????  
 И????  
 КЯ?

Another early seal of King Jogalia also displays a non-heraldic equestrian figure, but the legend is in Latin letters. This seal was attached to documents dated 1379, 1380, 1382, 1383, 1385 and 1386 which were known to have been housed in the Crown Capital Archive and at the Czartoryski Archive, in Cracow, Poland. From the number of independent drawings made of this seal, it appears that at least some



of the surviving seals are in very good condition and the legend very clearly reads: *iagal dey gracia rex m lettow*.

(will be continued in the next issue)

## LETTERS

In your next issue, can you put a note or a petition request to the Lithuanian Mint, so that we can buy coins directly from them. I would sign it or write a letter, or an e-mail as long as an address is given. Dennis Bartoszkiewicz, Brigantine, New Jersey.

Keep up the good work as it is appreciated. Šarūnas Mingėla, Northville, Michigan.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

*A FREE service to LNA members.*

**WANTED:** Picture postcards of Lithuania, Klaipėda/Memel, pre-1941 only. Send photocopies or description with price to: J. R. Greene, 26 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA 01331.

**WANTED:** Lithuanian coins prior to 1708, especially gold. Please send me a list of what you have for my generous offer. Tony Tumonis, P.O. Box 89792, Tucson, AZ 85752. E-mail: lith57@aol.com.

**WANTED:** Lithuanian 1923 First National Census badge. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224. E-mail: albionpf@hotmail.com.

**WANTED:** High grade early Lithuanian (pre-WWII) banknotes for personal collection. Robert Pletta, P.O. Box 480, Friendsville, MD 21531-0480. E-mail: rplett@gcnetmail.net.

**FOR SALE:** DOUBLE DIE 1936 silver Vytautas the Great 10 litų: #2 obverse and #4 reverse. Both \$55 each, XF condition. Frank Passic, 9000 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224, E-mail: albionfp@hotmail.com.

**FOR SALE:** Lithuanian Paper Notes 1918-1939. For information contact John Armonas, E-mail: apsc@ampolymer.com or FAX: (440) 255-8397.

**FOR SALE:** Various Lithuanian silver 50 litų commemorative coins. Call us at (773) 583-6500 or e-mail us at giftshop@lithuanianmuseum.org to see what we have and for prices. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture Gift Shop, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629.

**ASSISTANCE OFFERED:** Will look for and/or assist in obtaining collectable numismatic items in Lithuania. Contact by mail: Marius Urbalis; Kniaudiškių 50-10; LT-37123, Panevėžys; Lithuania or by e-mail: marius@filosofija.org

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